2026-2027 UNIVERSITY SENATE
MINUTES FOR THE 16 OCT 2026 MEETING
University Senate Officers: Presiding Officer Joyce Norris-Taylor, Presiding Officer Elect Brad Fowler, Secretary Alex Blazer

ATTENDANCE

Members	P denotes Present	A denotes Absent	R denotes Regrets
Nathan Bedsole-A	Jennifer Graham-P	Jonathan Meyer-R	Lamonica Sanford-R
Alex Blazer-P	Desaree Henriquez-A	John Moore-R	Arnab Sengupta-P
Rachel Bray-P	Shantee Henry-P	Bekir Mugayitoglu-P	Cara Smith-A
George Cazacu-A	Sabrina Hom-A	Christine Mutiti-P	Kevin Spann-P
Tormechi Chambliss-P	Lonnie Howell-A	Laura Newbern-R	Liz Speelman-P
Seth Cook-P	Stephanie Jett-P	Joyce Norris-Taylor-P	Rob Sumowski-P
Cathy Cox-P	David Johnson-P	Austin Parks-P	Amy Sumpter-P
Nicholas Creel-P	Sara Jordan-P	Amy Pinney-R	John Swinton-P
Angela Criscoe-P	Mehrnaz Khalaj Hedayati-P	Kelly Prior-P	Natalie Toomey-R
Jennifer Flory-R	Samuel Kleppinger-A	Frank Richardson-A	Charles Ubah-P
Brad Fowler-P	Hasitha Mahabuduge-R	Holley Roberts-P	Aric Wilhau-P
Hedy Fraunhofer-P	Amelia Malcom-P	Peter Rosado-P	
Chai Giles-A	Russ Merritt-P	Sam Samiya-A	

Guests	Role on University Senate or Position at the University
Chloe Allensworth	Graduate Assistant, Legal Affairs
Lori Burns	Director of Residence Life
Rhonda Griffin	Office Coordinator, Office of the Provost, and Administrative Assistant of the 2026-2027 University Senate
Amanda Jarriel	Associate Provost of Academic Affairs & Director of The Graduate School
Kim Muschaweck	Associate Professor of Teacher Education and Parliamentarian of the 2026-2027 University Senate
Charles Norton	Associate VP and General Counsel
Monica Starley	Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Brian Watson	Chief Information Officer and Member of the 2026-2027 RPIPC

CALL TO ORDER Joyce Norris-Taylor, Presiding Officer of the 2026-2027 University Senate, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA A consent agenda was available as an item of business listed on the meeting agenda and read as follows.

1. **AGENDA/MINUTES**
    a. University Senate Meeting Agenda (16 Oct 2026)
    b. University Senate Meeting Minutes (18 Sep 2026)

A **MOTION** *to adopt the consent agenda* was approved by voice vote with no proposed extractions, no further discussion, no dissenting voice, and only voting members of the university senate eligible to vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Motion 2627.ECUS.004.P Policy on University Policies, Procedures and Practices**
On behalf of the committee, Joyce Norris-Taylor, ECUS Chair, presented the motion.
    a. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** Supporting documentation was available in the online motion database: https://senate.gcsu.edu/policy-university-policies-procedures-and-practices.
        i. *Policy on University Policies, Procedures, and Practices 1 1.docx*
    b. **CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION** Charles Norton, Associate VP and General Counsel, noted that President Cox charged the Office of Legal Affairs to coordinate, categorize, and curate the scattered policies across the university, many of which have not been reviewed since 2010. The policies will be collected in a platform called Team Dynamics. The purpose of the policy is to evaluate and improve institutional policy framework, align policy with the USG, and identify policy gaps and inconsistencies. The policy does not create policy but rather maintains policy; it is an organization exercise that will identify the current and accurate owner policy, and distinguish between policy, procedure, and practice. Policy sets the stage and procedure implements it.
    c. **DISCUSSION** When Joyce Norris-Taylor called for questions and comments, many were forthcoming.
        i. Question: Could a policy committee write a procedure?
        ii. Answer: A procedure cannot exist without a policy.
    d. **SENATE ACTION**
        i. Motion 2627.ECUS.004.P was ***APPROVED*** by voice vote with no additional discussion and with no dissenting voice and only university senators eligible to vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — PRESIDENT CATHY COX

1. **BOARD OF REGENTS/USG UPDATE**
    a. The Board of Regents held its October meeting on the campus of the University of Georgia last week. UGA offered grand hospitality to the Regents and guests from all the USG institutions at multiple venues, including famed Sanford Stadium and the Bulldogs' fieldhouse, locker room and practice facilities, and the new medical school which is nearing completion. We did not tour but heard about plans for the new school of nursing; the Regents approved a request in August for more than $62 million for construction of the nursing school facility.
    b. In actions taken during the meeting, the Regents expanded the approved course transfer chart from TCSG to USG institutions, which will now allow students to take courses such as anatomy and physiology at a technical college and transfer it into GCSU for majors such as nursing, biology and other pre-med fields.
    c. No other new policies or policy amendments were discussed or adopted at the meeting.
    d. The USG Presidents held a fall meeting with the Chancellor on the day before the BOR meeting began and were introduced to Chancellor-elect Tom Fanning, retired CEO of the Southern Company (CEO from 2010-2023). He gave the presidents his background (grew up in NJ, started college playing football at West Point but because of injuries ended up at Georgia Tech, where he subsequently earned his bachelor's and master's degrees). He was employed with Southern Company for 43 years and in the past several years has worked as a presidential appointee by both Presidents Trump and Biden on commissions related to

cybersecurity, national security, and COTE (Continuation of The Economy), all of which contributed to his perspective that all USG graduates should be exposed to AI. He intends to donate the "economic value" of his salary as Chancellor to the new Dreams Scholarship program.

e. At the Presidents' meeting, we also heard a presentation on space utilization by the USG's real estate staff and were told that they will prioritize capital investments going forward through "utilization insights" that includes a formula to determine each institution's efficiency in using existing space. They have observed declining utilization of space in most sectors driven largely by reduced in-person instruction. They will focus on optimizing existing space before pursuing new construction.
f. All institutions will be submitting a new five-year capital plan in March of 2027. There is a new expectation that capital projects will contain "contributions" from each campus.
g. The USG's Chief Financial Officer Tracey Cook and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Ashwani Monga both gave presentations to the presidents on aspects of credit-hour production in the system generated by online instruction. Cook noted that the USG's data shows 39% of all the USG's credit hours are taught online – a total of 3.75 million credit hours. If you apply this to the state's funding formula, that equates to a little more than $1.5 billion of the funds appropriated to the USG per year. Her point related to efforts made during the last legislative sessions to cut the USG's funding because of a perception that online instruction costs less than does traditional in-person instruction. She and others do not know whether legislative leaders will again pursue this approach to the USG's funding formula but wanted USG presidents to be aware of the potential impact if they do. Dr. Monga discussed a hypothetical approach to capping the proportion of online credit hours generated by any USG institution for undergraduate teaching and showed an approach of capping online hours at 25% of an institution's offerings that would be disruptive to some 57,000 credit hours. Many presidents voiced concerns about a capping approach to the ability of their working and non-traditional undergraduate students to complete college without online instruction, as well as to their ability to find sufficient qualified faculty in many areas of the state. (Materials presented at the meeting showed GCSU offered 1.3% of undergraduate classes online.)
h. Chief Operating Officer Teresa MacCartney talked about implementation of the system's new ERP, Workday, describing financial and human resource systems as being the first systems to move onto the new platform. She emphasized the need to standardize processes within all of these systems, and to eliminate resistance in order to make the transition successful. "Everyone needs to be a team player," she said.
i. MacCartney said the System Office would be sharing best practices from various institutions so that others could benefit from implementation practices. The implementation work has to become a priority at every institution, she emphasized.
j. In another report, Dr. Monga said that in reviewing post-tenure reviews and all annual reviews for faculty over the past year, only 281 of 16,052 were unsuccessful, which equated to 1.8% (last year it was 2.4%).

2. **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

a. USG Open Enrollment will be open to benefit-eligible employees October 26 – November 6, 2026. Enrollment in benefits for the 2027 plan year will take place via OneUSG. USG benefits are centered around you to help you balance your health, work, and financial well-being goals. Attend the in-person Benefits Fair in the Student Activities Center/Magnolia Ballroom on Thursday, October 1st from 10:00 a.m. – Noon. This is an active enrollment year, which means you are required to take action if you want healthcare coverage for 2027 Open Enrollment. Visit the USG Benefits Website to learn more. Be sure to complete your certifications to avoid tobacco and working spouse surcharges!
b. The Office of Human Resources Benefits Team will be available to assist employees with Open Enrollment questions on several different occasions throughout the two weeks of Open Enrollment; specific dates they will be available will be circulated via FrontPage as Open Enrollment approaches. Contact benefits@gcsu.edu for questions or more information.
c. As mentioned above, the Board of Regents approved health plans for the coming year during their August meeting. An announcement on the 2027 changes is available here along with a summary of the approved plan design changes and premiums.
d. It is highly recommended that employees NOT wait until the last minute to complete their Open Enrollment elections. Often, the OneUSG system lags during the final days as there is a significant increase in web traffic across all 26 institutions in the USG and wait times when calling the OneUSG Connect - Benefits Call Center (1-844-587-4236) are also longer toward the end of Open Enrollment.

3. **ETHICS AWARENESS WEEK** Ethics Awareness Week is scheduled for November 2-8, 2026. The USG sponsors Ethics Awareness Week each year to reinforce our collective commitment to an ethical culture and to our shared values and expectations. Our Internal Auditor, Rhonda Fowler, is coordinating the following activities to highlight our Core Values of Integrity, Excellence, Accountability, and Respect. View the Kickoff Video and event details at https://www.gcsu.edu/audit/ethicsawarenessweek.
    a. Chancellor's Event- When Judgment Matters: Ethics & Leadership in the Real World with the Honorable Harold D. Melton, former Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court; Monday, November 2, 10:00 am - 11:00 am on MS Teams.
    b. Sustainable Trivia in the MAX Lobby with the Office of Sustainability; Tuesday, November 3, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm; Students can test their knowledge and win a prize!
    c. Shuttle Stop Smiles; Wednesday, November 4, 10:30 am - 11:15 am; Welcoming students to campus with a warm smile and encouragement for the day because well-being is the foundation for good judgment. Good minds make good choices!
    d. Campus Shred Event; Thursday, November 5, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; Purge records and files in accordance with the USG Records Retention Schedule. Approximately 9,200 pounds of paper were shredded during the 2025 event! For more information, refer to the Records Management resource page or contact your department's Record Retention Campus Contact.
    e. USG Ethics & Compliance Best Practices Panel- The Next Chapter: Ethical Leadership in an Innovation Era; Friday, November 6, 10:00 am - 11:00 am via Zoom.

f. Pop Tab Campus-Wide Collection Drive; Small tabs, big impact: Turn your everyday aluminum cans into life-saving support for families by joining our campus-wide pop tab collection drive for the Ronald McDonald House Charities.
g. Legal Affairs Info Session: Fast-track your knowledge on contracts, policy, and open records with this quick virtual training provided by the Office of Legal Affairs.
h. Ethical Marketing Survey, developed by Ania Rynarzewska, will test your knowledge of where marketing, ethics, and AI intersect.

4. **ANNUAL COMPLIANCE TRAINING** Annual Compliance Training is ***required*** by the University System of Georgia for **all** active employees (faculty, staff, and student workers - full & part-time) hired **prior to** September 1, 2026. All must complete the 2026 Required ***Annual Compliance Training*** module and complete both the ***Ethics Refresher and Acknowledgement Quiz***. Individuals who drive on university business, including golf carts, must also complete the ***Motor Vehicle Use Program*** module. The training must be completed by Monday, November 30, 2026. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Kelly Prior in Human Resources at 478-445-8573 or by email at kelly.prior@gcsu.edu.
5. **WINTER COMMENCEMENT** Our Winter Commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the Centennial Center. Dr. Alexandra Berglund, Assistant Professor of Reading, Literacy, and Language in the Department of Professional Learning and Innovation will serve as Commencement speaker. Dr. Berglund was the recipient of GCSU's 2026 Excellence in Teaching Award for excellence, innovation, and effectiveness in teaching. The recipient of this award also serves as the university's nominee for the Regent's Teaching Excellence Award.
6. **SAVE THE DATES**
   Faculty & Staff Fall Festival
   Thursday, October 29, 2026
   5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
   Front Campus
   Open Enrollment
   October 26 – November 6, 2026
   Ethics Awareness Week
   November 2-8, 2026
   https://www.gcsu.edu/audit/ethicsawarenessweek
   GCSU Night at Lockerly in Lights
   Tuesday, November 17, 2026
   6:00 – 8:00 PM
   Lockerly Arboretum
   Night of Lights
   Thursday, December 3, 2026
   5:30 p.m.
   Front Campus
   Winter Commencement
   Saturday, December 12, 2026
   1:00 p.m.
   Centennial Center
   Speaker: Dr. Alexandra Berglund

PROVOST'S REPORT — PROVOST HOLLEY ROBERTS

1. **PROVOST'S OFFICE UPDATES**
    a. **ASSOCIATE PROVOST** On October 1, 2026, Dr. Mandy Jarriel was appointed to the role of Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Director of The Graduate School.
    b. **FRESHMAN 2027 APPLICATIONS** have increased 7.1% compared to 2026 and completed applications have increased 19.6% compared to last year.
    c. **THE MARTHA DANIEL NEWELL CENTER FOR THE LIBERAL ARTS** will be launched July 1, 2027 and will serve as a focal point to support and elevate the liberal arts within the College of Arts and Sciences. It will serve as an incubator for ideas and innovation that will connect students with alumni mentors, research opportunities and employers.
    d. **ACADEMIC DATA COLLECTION** The University provided our midterm Academic Data Collection data this week and here are some of the results of the official data for Fall semester 2027.
        i. 4th Year graduation rate is highest ever with an increase from 52.93% to 59.01%
        ii. 3rd Year graduation rate increased from 6.25% to 6.67%
        iii. 6th Year graduate rated decreased from 60.05% to 58.62%
        iv. First-Year Retention rate decreased from 83.46% to 80.63%
        v. Total enrollment: 7434 (0 credit students are not included in this data extract, unlike on our internal reports)
        vi. Graduate headcount: 1015
        vii. Undergraduate headcount: 6419
        viii. Preliminary IPEDS FTF: 1837
        ix. Top Ten Majors – Pre-Nursing/Nursing, Marketing, Finance, Management, Exercise Science, Psychology, Biology, Mass Communication, Accounting
    e. **EARLY ALERT**
        i. To address the first-year retention rate, please utilize the Early Alert system to help our campus-wide Student Success team identify students who may be struggling with academic, personal, or transitional challenges and connect them to support and resources before those challenges become obstacles to persistence and achievement. The Early Alert form is available in MyGCSU > Quick Links. You should submit an Early Alert if you observe any of the following:
            1. Frequent absences or a noticeable change in attendance
            2. Low or missing grades
            3. Declining participation or engagement
            4. Difficulty adjusting academically or socially
            5. Expressions of financial concern
            6. Concerns about a student's connection to the campus community
            7. Indications that a student is considering withdrawing or transferring
        ii. Early identification is the most important part of this process. Please do not wait for concerns to escalate or become insurmountable before submitting an alert. Our goal is to provide meaningful, early support as soon as concerns emerge, helping students reengage, persist, and succeed.

To complete a report go to: **MyGCSU > Quick Links > Early Alert Form > Complete the form**

2. **COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**
    a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**
        i. **Deep Roots Festival** The College of Arts & Sciences will have a tent at the Deep Roots Festival on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 from 10 a.m.– 6 p.m. (activities will include live screen-printing demos with the Department of Art, experiments from the Science Education Center and DJing by student radio station WGUR, *The Noise*)
        ii. **Department of Music**
            1. An American Choral Mosaic Women's Ensemble, Max Noah Singers & University Chorus on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, 7:30 p.m. in Russell Auditorium
            2. Elements — GCSU Orchestra with violin soloist Brian Lewis on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, 7:30 p.m. in Russell Auditorium
            3. Looking to the Future: Recent Voices in Wind Band Music — GCSU Wind Symphony, Zandra Bell-McRoy, conductor on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. in Russell Auditorium
        iii. **Department of Art** Live screen-printing demos at the Deep Roots Festival on Saturday, October 17, 2026
        iv. **Department of Chemistry, Physics & Mathematics** Family Fun Night — Science Education Center, Chemistry Club & Department of Chemistry, Physics & Mathematics — hands on activities for all ages on Thursday, October 22, 2026 from 5–8 p.m. in the Arts & Sciences Auditorium
        v. **Departments of Art, Music, Communication, English, and Theatre & Dance** Artober: An Evening of the Arts — Departments of Art, Music, Communication, English and Theatre & Dance — Wednesday, October 28th 5–6:30 p.m., Music Rehearsal Hall, 321 N. Wayne St., Milledgeville (live performances, art demonstrations, film screenings, readings and a Theatre & Dance display)
        vi. **Department of Theatre & Dance** *Cry It Out* (by Molly Smith Metzler) on Nov. 4–6 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 7-8 at 2 p.m., Campus Black Box Theatre
    b. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
        i. **School of Nursing**
            1. Dr. Denise Cochran has been selected for the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Excellence in Teaching Award. This well-deserved honor recognizes Dr. Cochran's dedication, expertise, compassion, and commitment to educating the next generation of midwives.
            2. Dr. Tamsin Lewis has been selected as a Fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (FACNM). Fellowship is one of the highest honors bestowed by the American College of Nurse-Midwives, recognizing individuals whose leadership, clinical excellence, scholarship, education, and service have made significant contributions to advancing the profession of midwifery. This prestigious honor reflects Dr. Lewis's dedication to excellence and her lasting impact on patients, students, colleagues,

and the profession.

ii. **Simulation and Translational Research Center** The Trick or Treatment event is back at the Sim Center and will be held on October 23rd from 9-4.

iii. **School of Health and Human Performance** Dr. Liz Speelman was accepted to serve on the Accreditation Council for the Association for Experiential Education.

c. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

i. **Dr. Bekir Mugayitoglu** was selected as one of six speakers for TEDxGeorgiaCollege, where he will present "The Algorithm Artisan" on November 10, 2026.

ii. **Dr. Chris Greer**'s PBS series, *View Finders*, was renewed for a fifth season, premiering in 2027.

iii. **Alumna Syntria Holmes-Jackson** was named the 2026-2027 Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Teacher of the Year. She earned a Master of Arts in Teaching in Secondary Education with a concentration in History and an Education Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Secondary Education. She is a social science teacher at the Macon Youth Development Campus in Bibb County and has served DJJ students for nearly 20 years.

iv. **Dr. Doyin Coker-Kolo**, Associate Dean, was invited to co-present "Bridging Continents, Building Capacity" at the Carnegie African Diaspora Program Convocation in Accra, Ghana.

v. **Dr. Joanie Brillant**'s proposal, "Beyond Language: Culture, Identity, and Learning," was accepted for the GATESOL 2026 Conference in Athens, Georgia. She will also co-present with Dr. Chanelle Maynard and give an individual presentation at the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER) Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida. In addition, she published an article, "Laying the Foundation," with MidTESOL.

vi. **Dr. Andrea Christoff**'s work was published in the CASTLE 2026 conference volume by Equity Press.

vii. **Curriculum and Instruction Doctoral Candidates** Dr. Da'miale Johnson (Chair, Dr. Rui Kang) and Dr. Leila Warren (Chair, Dr. Natalie Toomey) successfully defended their dissertations and will be hooded in December, 2026.

viii. **Strategic Meetings** College administrators and faculty are leading strategic meetings with superintendents and/or human resources directors in Clayton County, Putnam County, Grifin-Spalding County, and Bibb County Schools. These sessions identify each district's workforce priorities and lay the foundation for formal agreements that build a pipeline of graduate students. The College is actively inviting additional districts to join this work.

ix. **Educators After Hours** On October 29, the College will host Educators After Hours at Flight Time in Macon to engage with alumni.

d. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**

i. ***U.S. News & World Report*** Georgia College & State University (GCSU) earned the No. 1 ranking in Georgia among public institutions in the Regional South for both its undergraduate business and computer science programs in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2027 Best Colleges rankings.

ii. **Double Bobcat Program** The CoBT has launched a double Bobcat

program for the BBA-Accounting – MACC programs.

iii. **Combined Pathway** Starting in spring 2027, the COBT will launch a combined pathway for students to complete both the MMIS and MSAI Strategy degree programs in 45 hours.

iv. **Executive Forum** The CoBT will be hosting the next Executive Forum on Monday, November 16th.

3. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
   a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
      i. **Graduate Student Withdrawals & Graduate Student Retention Efforts**
         1. **Withdrawals** As of October 8, a total of 55 graduate students have withdrawn from Fall 2026 term. Eight students updated their graduate admissions to spring 2027.
         2. **The "Come Back Strong" Re-Enrollment Communication Plan** is in progress. The plan encourages withdrawn graduate students to update their graduate admissions and re-enroll in spring '27 or summer '27.
         3. **The Fall 2026 Mid-term Graduate Student Check-In Survey** was completed and received a 25% response rate, with responses from approximately 39 of 156 graduate students surveyed. Thirty students said they are doing great this semester and seven responded that they are struggling. Of the seven, three opted to explain why they were struggling and ask for support. The other three students did not reply to the second half of the survey after the initial no. Outreach was conducted to students who indicated they were experiencing difficulties and requested additional support.

      ii. **Administrative Graduate Assistants, AY 2027-2028** The call for Administrative Graduate Assistant (GA) Requests will open on October 15. Non-academic Offices seeking an Administrative GA allocation for the 2027–2028 academic year are invited to submit their request by completing the Administrative Graduate Assistant Online Request Form on The Graduate School website. All requests must be submitted on or before December 15.

      iii. G**raduate Research Travel Grants** The Graduate School is accepting applications for the fall 2026 cycle of the Graduate Research Travel Grants program. The maximum award amount is up to $750. The application is available on The Graduate School website, and the submission deadline has been extended to October 19.

      iv. **Graduate Student Engagement/Learning Opportunities**
         1. **The Graduate Student Writing Retreat** was held on October 3 in collaboration with the SoCPS, the Writing Center, and the library. Eight students registered, and four attended. Participants had the option to engage in focused writing time or participate in a "Talk It Out" session. Students also received personalized writing support from Graduate Writing Consultants, a presentation from the library on citation manager tools, and participated in a wellness activity. Attendees represented biology, creative writing, music education, and nursing.

2. **Morning Pour** The Graduate School will host Morning Pour – Coffee, Conversation & Connection with the COBT Graduate Assistants on October 21, 2026.
3. **Graduate Research Showcase** As of October 1, the Graduate Research Showcase in the Knowledge Box had 29 submissions, 282 downloads of graduate student scholarship from 172 countries. The 10 countries/regions represented includes, the United States, Singapore, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, Vietnam, India, Canada, the Philippines, and Germany

b. **HONORS COLLEGE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**
   i. **Honors College**
      1. **Birmingham/Montgomery Program** Due to the hurricane/tropical storm in Alabama, the Honors College rescheduled its Birmingham/Montgomery program from fall break to spring break.
      2. **Alumni Gathering** In conjunction with Deep Roots, the Honors College is hosting an alumni gathering on Saturday, October 17 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at The Brick.
      3. **Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference** The CFP for the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference and the Southern Regional Honors Conference have been released. If you have worked or are currently working with Honors students whose scholarship and/or creative work would be a good fit for a conference presentation (or an exhibit), please encourage them to participate. Please contact the Honors College for more details.
      4. **Nominations for the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships** Two students were nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship and three for the Marshall Scholarship.
      5. **Fulbright Applications** Ten students submitted Fulbright applications. The regions to which students are applying are particularly diverse this year: North America, South America, West Africa, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and East Asia.

c. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
   i. **The President and the Dragon** In collaboration with the Center for Leadership and the Public Good, Special Collections will have a pop-up exhibit curated by Evan Leavitt at the center's presentation of "The President and the Dragon." The event will take place on October 27 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in Magnolia Ballroom.
   ii. **Artificial Intelligence in Libraries and Archives** On November 4 at 1:00 p.m. in the Special Collections Reading Room, the library will offer a panel session entitled "Artificial Intelligence in Libraries and Archives." The presentation will feature Holly Croft, Evan Leavitt, and Shaundra Walker.

d. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**
   i. **AI in the Liberal Arts Speaker Series** highlights and celebrates the innovative work being done by our faculty, staff, and students as they contribute to the evolving understanding and application of AI within their disciplines. Open to the community. See gcsu.edu/socps for additional details.

ii. **Afterschool Achievement**
    1. **High Achievers Program** The students in the High Achievers Program collaborated with the College of Health Sciences to learn more about exercise science. They also participated in communication workshops, local food sustainability, and heard from Mr. Harold B. Simmons, regarding entrepreneurship. More of the HAP activities this month can be viewed on the newsletter tab in the High Achievers Newsletter.
    2. **The YES Program at LVA** chooses scholars of the month. This program recognizes a scholar who consistently demonstrates positive behavior, responsibility, respect, leadership, and a commitment to learning. This special recognition celebrates scholars who make good choices, encourage others, participate actively, and represent the YES Program with pride! Congratulations to the September Scholars of the Month, Destiny Cullens, Dakota Thomas, Skylar Scott, Xavier Olsen, Kayden Bundrage, Marcus King, and London Austin.
    3. **The YES Program at OHMS** recognizes members of the YES family who help make the program GREAT by consistently showing up, growing, supporting others, and making a positive impact. Congratulations to the G.O.A.T.S. Jordyn Ray, Manzie Broxton, Shantel Byrd, Asia Johnson, Harvey Lango Sr., and Cornelius Waller.

iii. **Academic Outreach**
    1. **Recent Programming** AO has had programs with the High Achievers Program, Homeschoolers, Baldwin, Putnam, and Colquitt County schools as well as the GCSU Thirst for Knowledge stream monitoring, Adopt-a-Stream trainings, and a First Friday event, reaching over 600 participants already.
    2. **Upcoming Programming** AO will be tabling at the Deep Roots Festival, participating in the Georgia CyberAcademy Community Day, providing programming for the Old Governor's Mansion and Science and History field trips with Jones and Washington Counties.

iv. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County**
    1. **Reading Event** Will host a reading event at Midway Hills Elementary on October 20th. CIS Board Members and other Community Volunteers will be reading to kindergarten and 1st grade students at MHE.
    2. **Attendance Awareness Week** OHMS Site Coordinator, Akeria Hill, hosted attendance awareness week for our middle school students to promote attendance and how it shapes educational outcomes.

v. **Continuing & Professional Education**
    1. **Assisting/Hosting Following Events**
        a. Small Business Development Conference, a GCSU & UGA SBDC collaboration (October 2026)
        b. Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference (February 2027)
        c. International Dyslexia Association - Georgia Chapter

Annual Conference (March 2027)
d. USG Creative Innovation Summit (September 2027)

2. **Hatha Yoga** with Heidi Mead on Thursdays from 6-7 pm at the Health Sciences Movement Lab.
3. **SHRM Test Prep Course** Preparing for the spring SHRM Test Prep Course. Registration will open in November, for the February 1 start date.
4. **The AI for Seniors Workshop Series** will begin November 3. This is free and open to anyone, though the content is geared towards older learners. Thank you to Dr. Ward Risvold for sharing his knowledge and expertise on this subject matter.

vi. **Historic Museums**

1. **Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion**
   - **a.** **Register** for the ***Death After Dark*** specialty tours to be held on **Friday, October 23.**
   - **b.** The **Christmas Candlelight Tours** are expanding from two to three weekends in December, with live musicians scheduled to perform in the Mansion's rotunda each weekend. Registration coming soon.
   - **c.** **Donations** The Mansion recently accepted donations of an antique secretary originally belonging to Governor Joseph E. Brown that was removed from the Mansion before Sherman's arrival in 1864, and an engraved silver teapot gifted to Governor Howell Cobb and his wife.
   - **d.** **Reaccreditation** The Mansion is preparing for its reaccreditation review in November.
   - **e.** **Cookies and Cocoa** Faculty & Staff are invited on Friday, November 13, 1-3 p.m. for Cookies, Cocoa, and a first look at the OGM holiday décor.
2. **Andalusia**
   - **a.** **Pumpkin Carving & Painting at Andalusia** **Register** to join a **Pumpkin Carving & Painting at Andalusia** on Saturday October 24. This event is **FREE** and in partnership with Food Depot who will donate 75 pumpkins and candy for the event.
   - **b.** **ACTC Lectio Conference** Andalusia hosted the ACTC Lectio Conference in September.
   - **c.** **Search** Conducting a search for an Assistant Director of Andalusia.

4. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

i. **Graduate Admissions** will waive their application fee Oct. 18 - Nov. 1, 2026.

ii. **Upcoming Graduate Program Virtual Open House Events** include the College of Arts & Sciences on Oct. 27 and the College of Business & Technology on Nov. 18. Sessions will be offered at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. on each date and will be facilitated by program faculty and graduate admissions staff.

iii. **The Office of Admissions** is on track for a successful Early Action cycle,

with applications on record pace for Fall 2027. Admissions decisions are scheduled to be released in mid-November.

iv. **The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships** has begun initial preparation for the President's Scholarship Competition (PSC), which will take place on Dec. 4. Over 100 of the brightest students accepted to GCSU for Fall 2027 will attend this daylong event, where they will compete for our most prestigious four-year renewable scholarships.

v. **The 2027–2028 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is now open. Students can complete the application at studentaid.gov. The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships will begin processing applications in mid-December. The Registrar's Office, Academic Advising Center, Center for Student Success, Learning Center and Graduate Office all completed outreach to students who had **unsatisfactory grades at midterm**. Students were strongly encouraged to meet with their instructors before deciding whether to drop or continue enrollment in those courses and were connected to appropriate tutoring and support resources. A special thank you to the faculty who reported midterm grades even though they were not required to do so. This is a tremendous help to our retention and graduation efforts!

vi. **Spring 2027 Registration** will begin Monday, Oct. 26, at 7 a.m. The Registrar's Office and the Academic Advising Center will open at 6:45 a.m., Monday, Oct. 26, through Thursday, Oct. 29. Advisors will also be in the library on Thursday morning to support first-year students as they register for the first time.

vii. **Double Bobcat Night** Thirty-nine students participated in the inaugural Double Bobcat Night on Sept. 29, a new collaboration among The Graduate School, Graduate Admissions, Academic Advising, and the Career Center. The event introduced students to the Double Bobcats Program, including eligibility, the application process and how students can earn up to 12 graduate credit hours that count toward both their bachelor's and master's degrees.

viii. **Legislative Internships Lunch & Learn** Held on Oct. 15 at 12 p.m. in 140 Lanier Hall, this session connects students with information and resources for pursuing legislative and government internship opportunities at the Georgia State Capitol, with Georgia legislators and in Washington, D.C.

ix. **Student Success & Retention Series** The next session, "Fall 2025 First-Year Retention Data Overview and New Freshman Insights," will be held Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. in Library 211, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. The session will provide campus partners with an overview of Fall 2025 first-year retention outcomes and insights from the Fall 2026 freshman cohort.

x. **Senior Preview Day** was held on Sept. 26 and was a huge success. Prospective students who attended reported feeling excited about their futures at GCSU.

xi. **The Office of New Student Programs** is preparing for several spring events including Sophomore Explore Day (Feb. 12), Admitted Student Day (Mar. 6) and Junior Day (Apr. 17).

b. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

i. **Writing Center**
   1. **Outreach and Marketing** 50 library and class visits this fall (ENGL 1101/1102, GC1Y, GC2Y, nursing, music), Atrium tabling, a Biosciences meet-and-greet, TREK workshops (Sept. 9, Oct. 6, Oct. 28), Senior Preview Day, "Feeling Spooked By Midterms?" (Oct. 1), and upcoming Bobcat Media interviews for Writing Center marketing.
   2. **Graduate Support** Graduate Writing Retreat (Oct. 3) with the Graduate School, Library, SoCPS, and Student Health & Wellbeing; spring retreat planning underway.
   3. **Tutor Development F**all training week and biweekly professional development (class visit practice, APA, plagiarism and AI, scientific writing with Dr. Alison VandeVoort), new asynchronous shadowing launching in October, Thunder Spirit Award, SWCA conference preparation, graduate resource materials, and undergraduate tutor hiring.

ii. **Learning Center**
   1. **Supplemental Instruction Leader** support requested for Spring; 52 SI Leaders to support 95 sections.
   2. **USG Learning Center Directors Summit** The director participated in the USG's Learning Center directors Summit at Georgia Tech on October 2, 2026.
   3. **Reaccreditation** materials submitted to the International Center for Supplemental Instruction.
   4. **Ripple Effect Celebration** November 2-6 The Ripple Effect Celebration, appreciation week for peer academic support staff.
   5. **Drop-In Tutoring Visits** are up 62% this fall compared to the same time last fall.
   6. **SI Supervisor Training** The new Assistant Director will attend SI Supervisor Training November 16-17th.

c. **MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS**

i. **Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference (GURC)**
   1. **500 Presenters** GCSU will welcome approximately 500 presenters (224 projects accepted, with 34 projects from GCSU) and their faculty mentors to the 15th annual GURC in Milledgeville on November 6-7, 2026, organized by the MURACE office.
   2. **Statewide, Regional, Multidisciplinary Conference** GURC is a statewide, regional, multidisciplinary conference to showcase undergraduates' original research projects or creative endeavors conducted with faculty and staff mentors. It also provides networking opportunities for undergraduates in career and graduate schools.

ii. **Research Day 2027**
   1. **Date** April 21, 2027.
   2. **Classes Will Be Reassigned** so that all can participate.
   3. **The Submission Form** will be available on the MURACE webpage by the end of October.
   4. **Senior Capstones and Discipline-Specific Events** MURACE invites all disciplines to consider designating the day to celebrate

their student success by presenting senior capstone projects or discipline-specific events with classes reassigned.

iii. **Posters at the State Capitol** Event will be held in Spring 2027. The details are in the works and will be announced on the MURACE webpage.

d. **INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP AND THE PUBLIC GOOD**

i. ***The President and the Dragon.*** On Tuesday, 27 October 2026, the Institute for Leadership and the Public Good, in partnership with the Carter Center, will host a documentary screening of *The President and the Dragon*. This powerful new documentary traces former President Jimmy Carter's decades-long campaign to eradicate Guinea worm disease, reducing cases from 3.5 million a year in 1986 to just 15 today, and putting the disease on the brink of becoming only the second in history to be eradicated. Open to the public and free tickets available at gcsu.edu/leadership/carter.

ii. **TEDxGeorgiaCollege** On Tuesday, 10 November 2026, the Institute for Leadership and the Public Good will host TEDxGeorgiaCollege, bringing six speakers to the TEDx stage. Tickets available at tedxgeorgiacollege.com.

e. **GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER**

i. **International Fest 2026** On Thursday, Oct. 22, the International Club, in collaboration with the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Global Education Center, will sponsor the annual International Fest. Globally-themed exhibits will be a central feature along with tables hosted by our international students who will share their countries and cultures with GCSU students, faculty and staff, plus special guests in attendance.

5. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**

a. **CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING**

i. **"Why GCSU?"** Benefits of the Liberal Arts Experience - October 21, 2026 @ Noon.

ii. **SRIS** Objective Selection Form opens on October 16, 2026.

iii. **Teaching Excellence Awards** Nominations to college due by: November 18, 2026.

b. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**

i. **Georgia Literacy Coordinating Committee** Dr. Lindee Morgan was appointed to serve on the Georgia Literacy Coordinating Committee pursuant to House Bill 1193 (HB 1193). This appointment remains in effect for as long as the legislation authorizing the committee and the appointment remains in force, unless otherwise amended or terminated in accordance with applicable law.

ii. **2027 Reading Clinic** 32 GCSU tutors were recently trained for the 2027 Reading Clinic. The Deal Center has partnered with Midway Hills and Greene County Elementary School for the FY27 Reading Clinic.

iii. **The Storytellers Project** Began a new program initiative, The Storytellers Project, which is a joint project with the Montessori Academy, in which trained GCSU students engage the B-5 classrooms in an interactive story time, reading to approximately 400 students per week.

iv. **Trained 50 Selected DECAL Staff Members** on vocabulary and oral language, phonological awareness, reading and writing, and storybook engagement for children from birth to age 5.

v. **The Admin Cohort Project** has scaled beyond expectations to four locations and 334 participants.
vi. **Researcher Training Series** Hosted Dr. Munro Richardson for the first in the Researcher Training Series on constrained and unconstrained language and literacy skills.
vii. **Presented Language as the Foundation for Literacy** in Washington County to 30 mixed B-5 professionals (healthcare to childcare).

6. **SENATE ACTION**
    a. A **Motion** *to extend the meeting 15 minutes* was made and seconded. **The motion to extend the meeting was approved.**

STAFF COUNCIL REPORT — KELLY PRIOR, CHAIR

1. **USG STAFF COUNCIL CONVENTION** Big project for the year: USG Staff Council Convention coming Fall 2027.
    a. Working with President's Office to select a date.
    b. Working on ideas for a theme for convention.
2. **UPCOMING INITIATIVES AND EVENTS** Each committee reported out for upcoming initiatives and events.
    a. **STAFF DEVELOPMENT** I Caught You Caring Pin Update, Mentorship Program continuing to develop, Engagement Portal is up and running, continuing to present the I Caught You Caring Awards.
    b. **COMMUNICATIONS** Visiting various departmental meetings to discuss Staff Council, posting activities and events to social media.
    c. **SPECIAL PROJECTS** Case of the Mondays (revamp of name forthcoming) will be October 12 and March 15, Staff Appreciation Dig Pink Volleyball game will be October 20th, Education Basketball games will be November 6 and December 14, first shout out of the year was presented to Residence Life and the 2nd one was presented to the library staff.
    d. **BYLAWS & ELECTIONS** Nothing to report currently.
3. **NEXT MEETING DATES**
    a. Staff Council Meeting – October 22
    b. Executive Committee – Nov 3

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT — SAM SAMIYA, PRESIDENT

There was no Student Government Association Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC) — ARNAB SENGUPTA, CHAIR**
    Officers: Chair Arnab Sengupta, Vice-Chair Nathan Bedsole, Secretary John Swinton
    a. **WITHDRAWAL POLICY** APC is preparing a proposal to move GCSU's last day to withdraw without academic penalty later in the term and to remove the WF grade. A draft is expected at APC's October 30 meeting, after feedback from academic units.
    b. **POLICY LIMITS**

i. **BOR Policy Manual 3.5.2:** each institution sets its own last date to withdraw without academic penalty ("W"). Hardship exceptions are handled by the institution.
ii. **USG Academic and Student Affairs Handbook 2.5.4:** for 15-week fall and spring terms, the deadline must fall before the end of the 11th full week of classes (breaks in the first 11 weeks are not counted).
iii. Students must receive performance feedback, such as midterm grades, at least one week before the deadline.
iv. Shorter terms: no later than two weeks before the last day of classes (one week for terms under four weeks).
v. Institutions must advise students on effects of withdrawing, including full-time status, financial aid, scholarships, athletics, VA benefits, housing and immigration status.

c. **CURRENT GCSU PRACTICE**
i. Midterm grades are due on the 37th class day (fall) or 36th (spring).
ii. The drop deadline is normally the fourth-class day after that, about the end of week 8.
iii. It shifts for weather closures or when it would overlap the opening of registration (currently about week 10).

d. **WHAT OTHER INSTITUTIONS HAVE DONE**
i. Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern, Kennesaw State, Middle Georgia State and Valdosta State have extended their deadlines to give students more time to succeed. Albany State, Atlanta Metropolitan and Dalton State have done the same.
ii. UGA moved its deadline into the 13th week and eliminated the WF grade. Students who do not withdraw by the deadline receive the grade they earned.
iii. The Registrar reported that UGA also removed its early drop date. Its drop rate fell and its pass rate rose.

e. **POINTS FROM THE DISCUSSION**
i. The earlier APC motion predated, and did not match, the USG 11-week rule; a new proposal will.
ii. The Registrar reports USG agrees a later deadline helps students.
iii. Expected benefits: more time to correct course, fewer panic drops, better on-time graduation.
iv. The drop deadline should not coincide with registration week. Opening registration before the W deadline may be an advantage.
v. One option is to set the deadline shortly after midterm grades are due, keeping the required one-week feedback window.
vi. The WF grade is functionally an F. APC will consider removing it.
vii. A later deadline may affect when student course evaluations (SRIS) are released, and will need faculty buy-in.

f. **NEXT STEPS**
i. APC members are gathering feedback from colleagues in their units.
ii. APC will consider a policy proposal on October 30, 2026, for Senate action after that.

g. **REQUEST TO DEPARTMENTS** Please send comments to your APC representative or to me before October 30. The two questions are should we move the drop date deadline to week 11, and whether the WF grade should be removed.

2. **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE (AIPRC) — BRAD FOWLER, CHAIR**
   Officers: Chair Brad Fowler, *Vice-Chair Andrew Allen, Secretary TBD*
   a. **NO MEETING** AIPRC had no business to conduct, so it did not meet.
3. **BELONGING AND INCLUSION POLICY COMMITTEE (BIPC) — HEDWIG FRAUNHOFER, CHAIR**
   Officers: Chair Hedwig Fraunhofer, Vice-Chair Austin Parks, Secretary David Johnson
   a. **POSITIVE WORKING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT POLICY** BIPC continues its work on a policy encouraging a Positive Working and Learning Environment/ Anti-Bullying Policy.
4. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS) — JOYCE NORRIS-TAYLOR, CHAIR**
   Officers: Chair Joyce Norris-Taylor, Vice-Chair Brad Fowler, Secretary Alex Blazer
   a. **POLICY ON POLICIES** ECUS has approved and sent to University Senate Motion Number 2627.ECUS.005.P to approve the Policy on University Policies.
   b. **SMART DEVICES** ECUS is currently reviewing information regarding a possible policy regarding smart devices such as Meta glasses and head phones. We are researching policies at other institutions. We need to consider both academic settings and campus-wide settings such as the Wellness and Recreation Center.
   c. **SENATE ACCOUNT UPDATES**
      i. Foundation account balance: $1099.98
      ii. State budget account balance: $3,977.00
      iii. Donation account balance: $64.17
   d. **QUESTIONS**
      i. Comment (Charles Norton, General Counsel): The Office of Legal Affairs offers support. General Counsels across the system are concerned. I am happy to take questions and concerns to the upcoming USG Legal Conference.
      ii. Question: Why is this a campus-wide issue?
      iii. Answer: People could be recording in faculty offices, the library, and bathrooms. In the School of Nursing, such recording could constitute a HIPPA violation.
      iv. Answer (General Counsel): FERPA also protects academic information.
5. **SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (SCON) — BRAD FOWLER, CHAIR**
   Officers: Chair Brad Fowler, Secretary Alex Blazer
   a. **ELECTION OVERSIGHT MATERIALS** SCoN approved and sent election oversight materials, including the Corps of Instruction list and the apportionment spreadsheet to the college deans and library director.
6. **FACULTY AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE (FAPC) — CHRISTINE MUTITI, CHAIR**
   Officers: Chair Christine Mutiti, Vice-Chair Amy Sumpter, Secretary Liz Speelman
   a. **SUMMER SERVICE EXPECTATIONS** The committee discussed the absence of a University System of Georgia (USG) policy regarding summer service expectations for 10-month faculty appointments. Members were also unaware of any existing Georgia College & State University (GCSU) or Human Resources policy addressing this issue. Committee discussed possibility of a policy that protects 10-month faculty who decline requests to participate in service activities during the summer months from any negative consequences or repercussions such as annual evaluations or other employment-related considerations.

b. **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE** The committee revisited the professional leave topic and confirmed that the relevant policy documents have been updated. The committee also discussed a concern that had been raised regarding the inclusion of a criterion related to "prior professional leaves taken" in the College of Arts & Sciences (COAS) professional leave rubric. Although the matter falls outside the scope of the Faculty Affairs and Policy Committee (FAPC), it was confirmed that this criterion has already been removed from the COAS rubric. Given that the issue has been addressed, the committee determined that no further action by FAPC is necessary at this time.
c. **UPDATES FROM ASSOCIATE PROVOST** To support communication and transparency between Academic Affairs and faculty, the Associate Provost has begun holding regular meetings with FAPC leadership. At a recent meeting, an update was provided on the revised post-tenure review process, including new forms that incorporate Likert-scale evaluation measures and annual reporting through the USG system. Two review forms have been developed: one for positive reviews and another for cases requiring a performance improvement plan. The committee noted this update as part of its ongoing effort to stay informed about changes affecting faculty evaluation and review processes.
d. **PRINCIPAL LECTURER RANK** The committee discussed a proposal to create an additional promotion pathway for full-time lecturers, allowing advancement from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer and ultimately Principal Lecturer. It was agreed that the concept should first be presented to ECUS to gauge support before developing specific criteria and expectations for the proposed ranks.
e. **POLICY ON LECTURERS** The committee discussed whether promotion to Senior or Principal Lecturer should involve expanded expectations and opportunities. Questions were raised about potential changes in responsibilities, particularly regarding service and scholarship, as well as access to opportunities such as professional leave, course releases, or academic leadership roles. The discussion also considered whether existing restrictions on non-tenure-track faculty holding leadership positions should be revisited based on rank or years of service.
f. **QUESTIONS**
    i. Question: Is the committee looking at rank for limited-term lecturers?
    ii. Answer (Chair): No, only permanent lecturers.

7. **RESOURCES, PLANNING, AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (RPIPC) — NATALIE TOOMEY, CHAIR**
Officers: Chair Natalie Toomey, Vice-Chair George Cazacu, Secretary Shantee Henry
    a. **NO REPORT** As Natalie Toomey had extended Regrets and was unable to attend this meeting, there was no RPIPC Report.
8. **STUDENT AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE (SAPC) — ARIC WILHAU, SECRETARY, FOR JOHN MOORE, CHAIR**
Officers: Chair John Moore, Vice-Chair Desaree Henriquez, Secretary Aric Wilhau
    a. **STUDENT RELOCATION** Scholarship students relocated to Revelry Flats.
        i. Resolved.
        ii. Emily Jarvis briefed us on the situation (had to do with melt/enrollment levels) discussed 8-person suites in future academic years and potential bus route changes if Revelry is used in future academic years.
    b. **ACADEMIC ADVISING TURNOVER**
        i. Resolved.

ii. Academic Advisor turnover is an issue, but discussion progressed to educating students on how to use degree works (themselves) and ensuring required courses for graduation are offered regularly/predictably so as to not hurt four year graduation rates.

c. **GREENE ST CROSSWALK** by Adams Hall and reflecting pool potential safety improvements.
   i. See "West Greene Street Crosswalk and Lighting Information Sheet by Freese" – asking ECUS on next steps.
   ii. Materials sent to Dr. Roberts and Susan Allen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (UCC) UPDATE — ANGEL ABNEY, CHAIR**
   a. **UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE September 25, 2026**
      i. **NO MEETING** UCC did not meet because we had no action or information items.
   b. **GRADUATE COUNCIL September 11, 2026**
      i. **OLD BUSINESS**
         1. Maximum allowable credit overlap between graduate programs? Need to edit and vote on Policy Proposal. Attachments: USG Combined Degree Program Data and Graduate Dual Degree Policy..
            a. Tanya shared an email on 8.28.26 with additional questions about the proposal.
            b. This policy could apply to certain programs.
         2. Question considered: We are giving two degrees to the same person; how do we maintain our level of excellence?
            a. Could we have language that explains if courses are overlapping?
            b. Maximum no more than 9-12, could exceptions be made for certain programs.
            c. Who would be the gatekeeper for approval?—This would need to be included in the policy.
            d. Consider the wording of "no more than 15 hours" as determined by the program.
         3. **Internal Dual Degree** Why would we limit ourselves by saying different departments? MMIS and MSAIS is a classic example as both are located in IS&CS. A student will select one instead of the other, rather than getting two, if they cannot be a dual degree.
            a. Rewording to different departments in place of different department.
         4. **Timing** I do not know why students cannot apply until after finishing one semester, and then, not if they have completed more than 50% of their degree. Why can't they apply to both programs initially?
            a. We want to encourage students to apply to both programs initially
            b. 50% is an issue with Double Bobcats; we need to review the Double Bobcats policy

c. Latest: a student can apply for the 2nd degree
    i. We don't think there should be a time limit
5. Academic standard/progression
    a. Consider how we will monitor maintaining progress through both programs, this could be an issue with athletes, international students & financial aid
    b. Suggestion: a student can be in a class for both degrees every semester
6. Students will receive two different diplomas and listed separately on their transcript.
7. Mandy will revise the policy & we can provide an email vote on the revised policy.

ii. **NEW BUSINESS**
1. Approve Bylaws (edited version sent as attachment)
    a. Moved by Tina Holmes-Davis; Seconded by Kristina Dandy
    b. Changes approved on 9.11.26
    c. Changes will be sent to Emily
2. **Action Items**
    a. **College of Arts & Science**
        i. None
    b. **College of Business & Technology**
        i. None
    c. **College of Education**
        i. None
    d. **College of Health Sciences**
        i. None
3. **Information Items**
    a. Remind students to submit graduate applications (due 9/11) accepted until the end of the semester

c. **GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (GEC) September 18, 2026**

i. **OLD BUSINESS**
1. Development of GC Learning Outcomes for Areas P, A, & S (Cara)—Plan more next month
2. On-going tasks stemming from Spring 2024 Syllabus Audit Findings
    a. Review of New Rubrics/Checklist for GC1Y & GC2Y proposal—Approved to be edited for discussed corrections and used for first round of proposals GEC receive
    b. GC1Y Non-Sections—Discussed and take up for next time
    c. GCXY Peer to Peer Review Process---review and send notes to Cara; with a plan to pilot it 2-3 pairs---seeking to vote to pilot it in October

ii. **NEW BUSINESS**
1. None

iii. **CORE-RELATED COURSE PROPOSALS**
1. None

iv. **GC1Y/2Y PROPOSALS**
1. GC2Y: In Quest of the Heroic

a. Approved via email April 26

2. GC2Y: Writing the World
    a. Approved via email April 26

OPEN DISCUSSION Joyce Norris-Taylor invited open discussion from the floor.

1. **UNIFIED ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP)**
    a. Comment (Brian Watson, CIO): Unified ERP is a system-wide project that combines current PeopleSoft financial and HR systems into a new platform called Workday. Many, if not all, processes, such as staff evaluations, time reporting, leave, and travel reimbursement, will change.
    b. Comment: Employees should sign up for USG communications, like newsletters and podcasts, regarding the transition to ERP.

ADJOURN

2. **ATTENDANCE AND THE SIGN-IN SHEET** Joyce Norris-Taylor requested that each individual present at the meeting sign the university senator attendance sheet or guest sign-in sheet on their way out if they hadn't already signed in.
3. **NEXT UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING** is scheduled for Friday, 13 Nov 2026 at 3:30 p.m. in Arts & Sciences 272.
4. **MOTION TO ADJOURN** As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. There are no supporting documents.